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**Name of Organization:** Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department

**Type of Organization:** County

**Contact Information:** Ms. Jaime Corbisier

Soil and Water Conservation Department

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**Project Title:** Riley's Point Purple Loosestrife Eradication Effort

**Project Category:** Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 0

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 16,816 **Project Duration:** 1.5 Years

**Abstract:**

Exotic aggressive species are a threat to ecological integrity. The Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department (SWCD) proposes to take the initiative to organize a cooperative effort to control aggressive exotic vegetative species that threaten Door County's unique environments along the more than 300 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. Educating and coordinating local stakeholders to become partners in an effort to intergrate a diverse array of controls for damaging species in sensitive areas would not only maintain and improve the biodiversity of those areas, but instill a renewed ownership and land ethic to communities.

Riley's Point is located along the southern Green Bay shoreline of Door County. The exotic species Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) has begun to establish numerous colonies on Riley's Point. As the first phase of a larger county wide initiative, the SWCD will organize a community coastal wetland rehabilitation effort in the Riley's Point peninsula, the first sensitive project area. Active participation by Riley's Point landowners will be sought for the implementation of control measures which will include physical, chemical and biological approaches to the Purple Loosestrife problem. Success in the Riley's Point habitat restoration will be transferred to additional control efforts in other sensitive project areas throughout the county as the second phase beyond the scope of this project.

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**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

**Lakes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

**Geographic Initiatives:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** Not Applicable

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

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***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:** Door County Peninsula

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

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**Problem Statement:**

Development on Riley's Point has opened a corridor for aggressive vegetation to invade coastal wetlands. Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicarium*) has numerous well established small pockets and threatens the remaining wetland areas. Limited efforts to control or eradicate the Purple Loosestrife in Door County have been attempted to date partially because the infested areas are located on private property and because the SWCD lacks the resources to coordinate such a private/public effort. This project will address the lack of organization by incorporating the people of the area with solutions for wetland rehabilitation and its importance.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

The SWCD proposes to rehabilitate a degraded habitat through implementation of an exotic vegetation control project at Riley's Point. This project is the first component of a multi-phased county wide project.

Purple Loosestrife will be addressed at Riley's Point, which is a small peninsula, primarily coastal wetland, that has been ditched and channelized. The ditching and channelizing has created an opportunity for infested pocketed areas to spread to nearshore waters. Step one of the Riley's Point project will include organizing landowners through individual contacts. The landowner contacts and organization process represents a significant portion of the workload involving education and other outreach components. Stewardship activities and hands-on involvement will be a focus within these contacts and include community organizational meetings, the development of a citizen advisory watch group, and biological training sessions.

Step two of the Riley's Point project will have the community participate in Purple Loosestrife eradication. Riley's Point has been selected based on its suitability for various control methods to be implemented. Non-chemical applications and physical removal will be encouraged along with biological controls, such as *Galerucella* beetles, which may be preferred in some situations.

Door County has had only minimal eradication/control efforts for exotic species. The short-term outcome of the Riley's Point project will be the removal of Purple Loosestrife. The SWCD anticipates long-term outcomes to be of greater importance as the Riley's Point project success becomes a benchmark for the larger county wide initiative. The community effort for habitat rehabilitation at Riley's Point will be a continued objective for the community advisory group. The county wide long-term outcomes will be similar as other exotic species and their corresponding habitats are addressed. Both of these outcomes will have measurable social and ecological benefits for future management.

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**Project Milestones:****Dates:**

Project Start	07/2000
Program launch & comm. leader I.D.	08/2000
Landowner contacts (continual)	08/2000
Advisory group public contact	09/2000
Landowner eradication training sessions	09/2000
Purple Loosestrife removal	05/2001
Monitoring and recording	07/2001
Project End/Continuation to next phase	12/2001

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☒ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

Door County is a popular tourism, second home and retirement destination in the midwest. Forty percent of the county property owners are non-resident. The absentee landowners are often overlooked during the community decision making process. The Riley's Point project proposal incorporates both the absentee landowner, the year-round landowner and government agencies in a cooperative effort to address a problem that effects all of the groups.

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

Education is a key component of the project proposal because the site is predominately privately owned property. Individual landowner contacts will introduce the problem to the property owners, convey the importance of sound conservation and enlist the landowners support of the project. Community meetings will be held to create and maintain a local advisory group responsible for assisting in community coordination of the project. A newsletter will educate and inform the neighboring property owners of the ongoing efforts at Riley's Point and the county wide initiative to promote awareness of habitat restoration.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	8,484	4,190
<b>Fringe:</b>	2,932	1,716
<b>Travel:</b>	1,900	0
<b>Equipment:</b>	1,000	0
<b>Supplies:</b>	1,700	0
<b>Contracts:</b>	0	0
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	800	0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	16,816	5,906
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	16,816	5,906
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

The Nature Conservancy  
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay; Biodiversity Center  
Peninsula State Park-Naturalist  
The Ridges Sanctuary  
Bureau of Endangered Resources (WDNR)  
The Clearing (Non-profit education center)